

chapter 2:

haunted

August 13th, 1998

BOSTON, MA
company denies
the late Dr. Rol
“breach of prot

In the wake of
clinical trial of
tragedy. Fami

“We were stun
no idea. It’s si
defies all logic

Six children ha
ranging betwe
36 hours. The
for a period of
director of clin
raising questio
hospital staff.

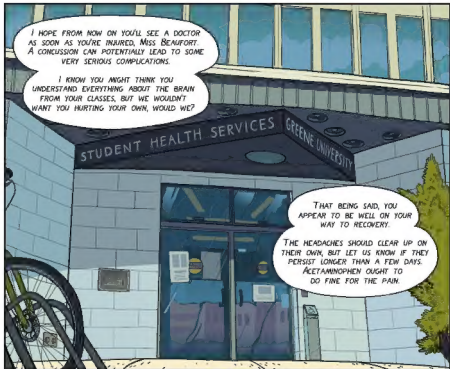
Dr. Shortill w
after the death

“The patients

But pharmace
allege that the



ABOVE: Dr. Lazzaro Ribaldi (right), pictured with colleague Shortill, described

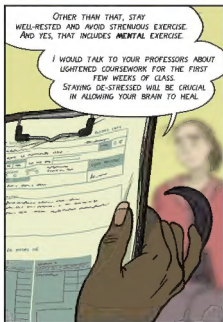


I HOPE FROM NOW ON YOU'LL SEE A DOCTOR AS SOON AS YOU'RE INJURED, MISS BEAUFORT. A CONCUSSION CAN POTENTIALLY LEAD TO SOME VERY SERIOUS COMPLICATIONS.

I KNOW YOU MIGHT THINK YOU UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING ABOUT THE BRAIN FROM YOUR CLASSES, BUT WE WOULDN'T WANT YOU HURTING YOUR OWN, WOULD WE?

THAT BEING SAID, YOU APPEAR TO BE WELL ON YOUR WAY TO RECOVERY.

THE HEADACHES SHOULD CLEAR UP ON THEIR OWN, BUT LET US KNOW IF THEY PERSIST LONGER THAN A FEW DAYS. ACETAMINOPHEN OUGHT TO DO FINE FOR THE PAIN.



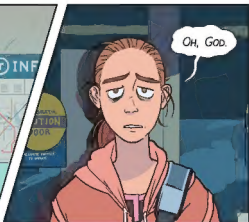
OTHER THAN THAT, STAY WELL-RESTED AND AVOID STRENUOUS EXERCISE. AND YES, THAT INCLUDES MENTAL EXERCISE.

I WOULD TALK TO YOUR PROFESSORS ABOUT LIGHTENED COURSEWORK FOR THE FIRST FEW WEEKS OF CLASS. STAYING DE-STRESSED WILL BE CRUCIAL IN ALLOWING YOUR BRAIN TO HEAL.



REMEMBER, CALL US IMMEDIATELY IF YOUR SYMPTOMS PERSIST OR WORSEN. WE CAN'T DO A CT SCAN AT THIS FACILITY, BUT IF YOU'D LIKE TO BE EXTRA CAUTIOUS, I CAN WRITE YOU A REFERRAL FOR ONE RIGHT NOW. JUST TO RULE OUT ANYTHING NASTY.







YEAH, IT'S SUCH A RELIEF,
GETTING SHOUTED AT BY THE
DEMANDING GHOST THAT APPARENTLY
ONLY I CAN SEE.

OKAY, WHAT, YOU STILL
WANT THEORIES?

I DUNNO, DID I FORGET THAT
I'M SIGNED UP TO EXPERIENCE
SOME UNSPEAKABLE, HORRIFIC VISIONS
INSIDE OF A SENSORY DEPRIVATION
TANK EXPERIMENT?

I SHOULD READ THOSE COURSE
DESCRIPTIONS MORE CLOSELY!



HEY, AT LEAST YOU'RE NOT DYING, RIGHT?
OR WAS NO NEWS ACTUALLY BAD NEWS?

WEIRD THAT I DIDN'T
TURN OUT TO JUST BE A BLOOD
CLOT AFTER ALL, HUH?
ANY OTHER IDEAS?

OR NO, WAIT, LET ME JUST CHECK
MY FACE FOR THE MAGIC GLASSES
THAT SHOW ME THAT EVERYONE
ELSE ON EARTH IS SECRETLY
AN ALIEN MONSTER.

RIGHT
MAYBE THAT BLOW TO THE HEAD
REALLY DID KILL ME, AND THE
PAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS HAVE
JUST BEEN MY DYING DREAM.



I THINK YOU
WATCH TOO MANY
HORROR MOVIES.



HERE'S AN OBSERVATION FROM
LIFE, THEN.

THIS IS THE
SECOND TIME I START
SEEING YOU.



AND THE
SECOND TIME...
THIS HAPPENS.







I DIDN'T START OUT WITH NOTHING.

I CAN TELL THAT I'M MISSING SOMETHING.



YOU CALL ME YOUR "GHOST." NOT THAT I THINK THAT'S MUCH OF AN ANSWER, BUT--

THOSE ARE THE TERMS OF BEING A GHOST, RIGHT?

YOU'RE STUCK AS LONG AS YOU'VE GOT UNFINISHED BUSINESS.



AND YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT BUSINESS IS? OR WHAT IT HAS TO DO WITH ME?

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ELSE.

JUST MY ONE LITTLE SHRED OF A FEELING. THE LAST DAMN THING I HAVE IN THIS WORLD TO HOLD ON TO.

BUT HEY, SORRY THAT'S NOT ENOUGH FOR YOU.



AND I KNOW THAT EVERY MISERABLE HOUR I SPENT TRYING AND FAILING TO REACH YOU ONLY TOOK ME FURTHER FROM IT.



GREAT! YOU'RE DISSATISFIED WITH MY PERFORMANCE.

WHY DON'T YOU PICK SOMEONE ELSE TO GO HAUNT, THEN?



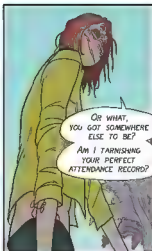
I CAN'T.

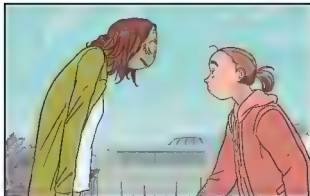


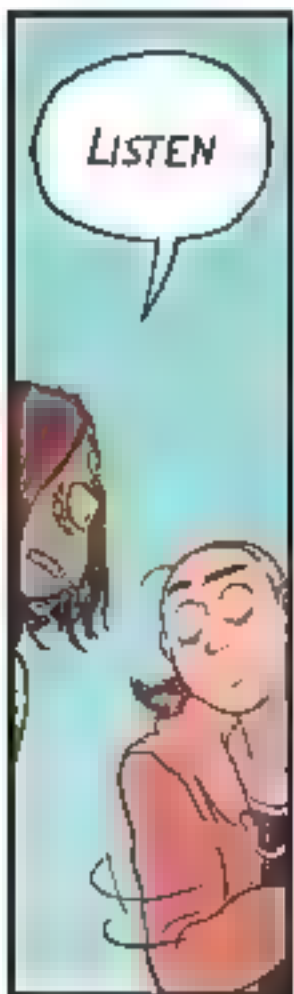
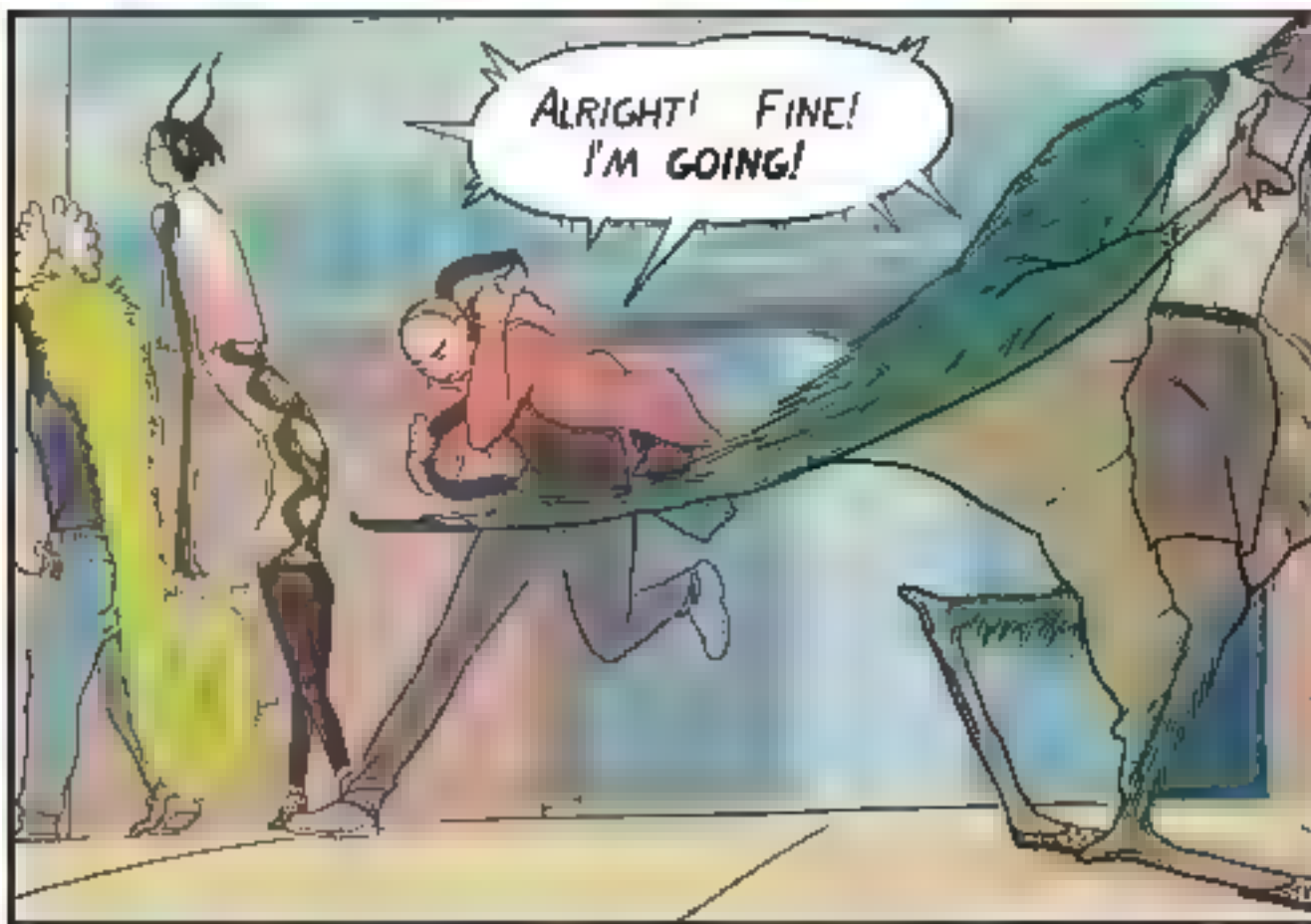
EVERYTHING STARTS TO FADE.



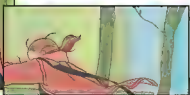
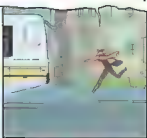








WAITWAITWAITWAITWAITWAITWAITWAITWAITWAIT



IF EACH OF YOU COULD TAKE ONE COPY OF THE SYLLABUS AND ONE OF THE CLASS CODE OF CONDUCT, THEN PASS THEM ALONG TO—



==HAAUUAH==



IS

THIS

THE

ROOM

330

COG

NAH?

COGNITI.

HARRY

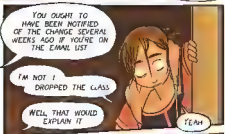
DR RIBALDI'S

CLASS?



THIS WAS DR RIBALDI'S CLASS. I'M AFRAID HE'S TAKEN A LEAVE OF ABSENCE ON RATHER SHORT NOTICE AND WILL BE UNABLE TO TEACH THIS SEMESTER

I'M DR MAHENDRU I'LL BE SUBSTITUTING FOR HIM



YOU OUGHT TO HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED OF THE CHANGE SEVERAL WEEKS AGO IF YOU'RE ON THE EMAIL LIST

I'M NOT I DROPPED THE CLASS

WELL, THAT WOULD EXPLAIN IT

YEAH



OK

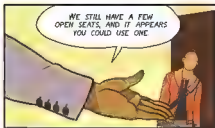
WELL

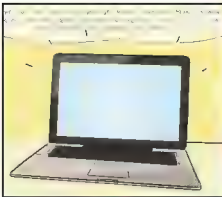
I'LL

JUST GO



NOW, HOLD ON





← C

o Ribaldi, M.D., Ph.D. - Green
 uly green.edu/ribaldi/index
 azzaro Ribaldi, M.D., Ph.D. Pro
 ertology and Neurology, Room 1
 athen Building, East Ave 2, Rm 1
 ected Publications: Announcem

o Ribaldi, M.D., Ph.D. - Profes
 uly green.edu/ribaldi/curnice
 e Resume: Vitae - Dr. Lazzaro Riba
 d neuroscientist and Director of

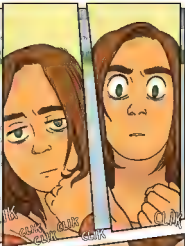
o Ribaldi, M.D., Ph.D. - Acade
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o Ribaldi, M.D., Ph.D. Scholar
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 e Mail User: L. Ribaldi R. Bulbogi

azzaro Ribaldi



First Name	
Last Name	
Phone	
Email address	
Department	
Website	
Office Room	
Bo	
42290 Rel	
Research	
Product	



Archives

Shortill's Deadly Trials

St... after tragedy, new insight in
 of the clinical




MISS BEAUFORT.

LAPTOPS WILL BE
FINE ONCE WE BEGIN
COVERING LATER LESSONS,

A PEN AND SOME
PAPER WILL DO FINE
FOR NOW

BUT JUST FOR TODAY,
I'D LIKE TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE'S
PAYING ATTENTION TO THE
COURSE OBJECTIVES

O-O-KAY_

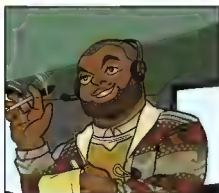
BEFORE WE GET INTO IT
LET'S LOOK OVER THE HOMEWORK
AND ATTENDANCE POLICY TOGETHER.
BECAUSE YES,

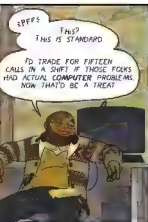
I DO ENFORCE IT WITHOUT
EXCEPTION AND NO, I WON'T HAVE
MUCH SYMPATHY FOR YOU IF YOU
DON'T OBEY AND THEN COME TO ME
APPEALED BY YOUR MARKS.

NEED A
PENCIL?









YOU MUST BE ONE
IF YOU'RE HERE THIS EARLY
THEY EXTEND YOUR HOURS
SINCE LAST YEAR?

AREN'T YOU THE
ONE WHO'S HERE LATE?

I LOST TRACK OF TIME
ON THAT LAST CALL, I GUESS.

ANYWAY, I FIGURED THEY CUT BACK
ON NEW WORK-STUDY JOBS OR SOMETHING.
WE'RE ALREADY DOING DOUBLE-TIME
IN THE SAME OFFICE.

HAH, BUDGET CUTS, THAT'S A GOOD GUESS.
BUT NO, I JUST HAD TO GET OUT OF THE HOUSE.

OH, YEAH.
WINE PARTY, HUH?

HOW THE HELL—
WHY DO YOU KNOW
ABOUT THAT?

PFF, I DUNNO.
DON'T REALLY REMEMBER
WORD GETS AROUND. FRIENDS POST
UNPROFESSIONAL PHOTOS THEY SHOULDN'T
ON TWITTER AND STUFF, I GUESS.

SEEMS LIKE IT WAS PRETTY
WILD, SPEAKING OF WHICH
YOU HUNGOVER?

≡AHEM≡

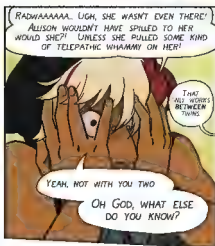
ANYWAY NO.

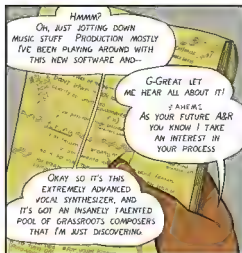
ONLY EMOTIONALLY.

YEAH, I
CAN IMAGINE.

YOUR EX BEING
THERE, THAT'S
GOTTA BE ROUGH.

WHAT?





WHAT, YOU NEVER GOT THAT
EMAIL THE SCHOOL SENT OUT?

UH?

2.213

WHAT
EMAIL

APPARENTLY OVER THE
SUMMER THERE WAS A THEFT
IN ONE OF THE RESEARCH CENTERS
SOMETHING MED OR SCIENCE,
I THINK

THEY SET UP A TIP
LINE URGING PEOPLE TO COME
FORWARD WITH INFORMATION
AND EVERYTHING I'M GUESSING IT
WAS SOMEONE WITH ACCESS TO
THE BUILDING

THE EMAIL SAID
"EQUIPMENT" WAS STOLEN
BUT I'VE HEARD OTHERWISE
DATA, MAYBE

AND THAT
WOULD
CONSTITUTE A
FEDERAL
OFFENSE?

WHAT'S HE
DOING BACK
THERE IN
THE BUDGET
OFFICES ANYWAY?

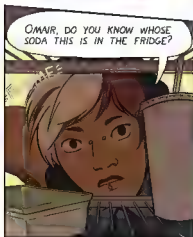
BEATS ME
JUST MY
BEST GUESS

GUESS

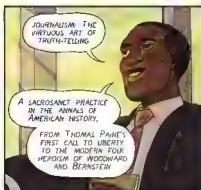
CAN I BORROW THIS?
JUST FOR A SEC

WHAT ARE YOU
DOOOHHHHNNNNNGGG

I'M JUST
CURIOUS

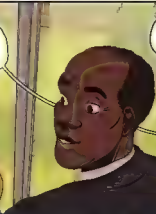








WHAT SORT OF
"ROUTINE" THINGS
DO YOU USUALLY
INVESTIGATE THEN?



HMM? SORRY, YOU'LL
FORGIVE ME IF I CAN'T
FREELY DISCUSS WHY I'M
HERE TODAY

WE DO MAINTAIN A
CERTAIN PROTOCOL
BORING, I KNOW

U-UM, I MEAN
SAY I WAS
INTERESTED FROM
A CAREER STANDPOINT



CAREER, EH?
WELL, WHEN
ENTERTAINING FAMILY
AND FRIENDS, I LIKE
TO EXPLAIN THE BULK
OF MY WORK AS
SIMPLY AIDING LOCAL
LAW ENFORCEMENT
WHEN A CASE BECOMES
FEDERAL JURISDICTION

A SPECIAL AGENT
LIKE MYSELF IS AN
INVESTIGATOR, HIGHLY
TRAINED FOR
WHATEVER SUCH
CASES COULD ENTAIL



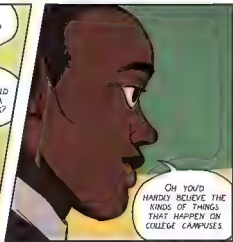
ON TOP OF THAT
WE INVESTIGATE
INCIDENTS THAT CROSS
STATE BOUNDARIES
AND THREATEN
NATIONAL SECURITY

TERRORISM AND
ORGANIZED CRIME,
CERTAINLY BUT
WHITE COLLAR CRIME
AS WELL

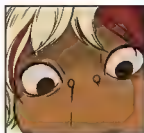
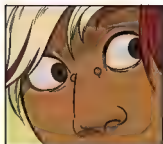
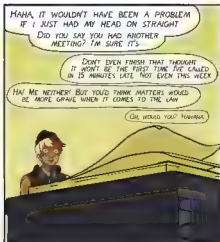
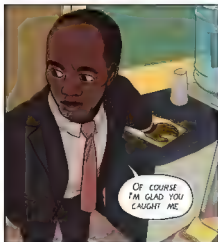
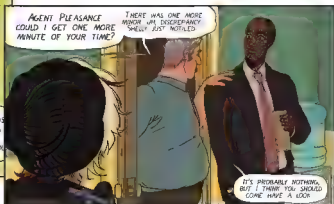


LIKE FRAUD?
EMBEZZLEMENT?

THE KIND OF
THING THAT COULD
HAPPEN FROM A
COLLEGE CAMPUS?



OH YOU'D
HARDLY BELIEVE THE
KINDS OF THINGS
THAT HAPPEN ON
COLLEGE CAMPUSES.





HI THERE!

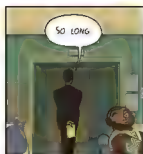
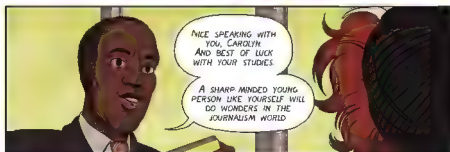


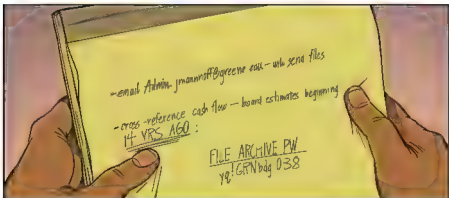
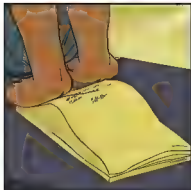
I'D BEST
BE ON MY
WAY NOW

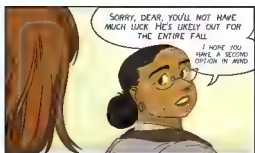
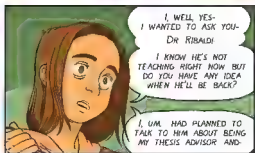
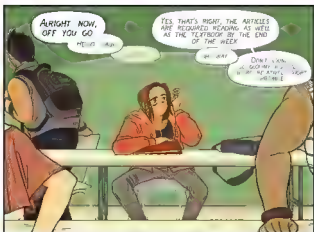


NICE TO
MEET YOU,
CAROLYN, I—

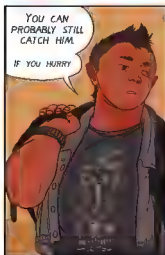
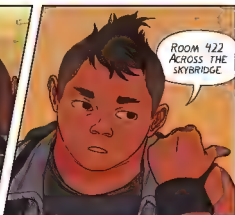
HM?

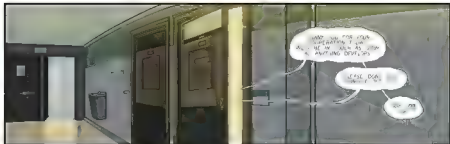


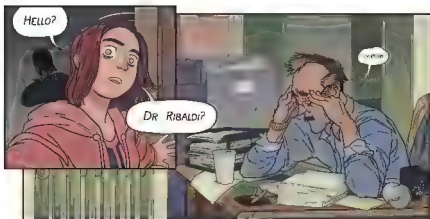
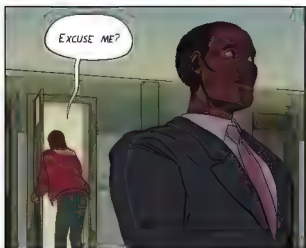


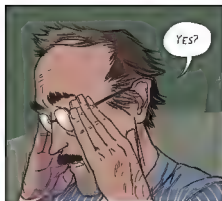


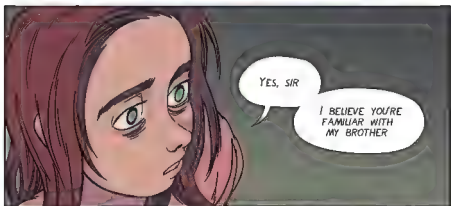














IT WAS A
SHOCK TO ALL
OF US,
YOU KNOW



TO ME
ESPECIALLY



ROBERT WAS
MORE THAN ANY
OLD COLLEAGUE

WE FIRST MET AT
PRINCETON. WE DID
OUR RESIDENCIES
TOGETHER. HE WAS MY
OLDEST CONFIDANT

WE ALL THOUGHT
HE WAS BRILLIANT.
HE CHARMED EVERYONE
HE MET

I CAN'T SPECULATE
AS TO WHY HE DID IT.
HE OFTEN SAID HE FELT
UNAPPRECIATED IN HIS TIME.
MAYBE IT DROVE HIM
TO THE BRINK

BUT WHAT
HE DID



I MEAN, YOU
CAN'T IMAGINE
WHAT A BETRAYAL
IT WAS

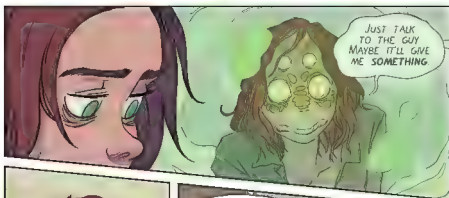
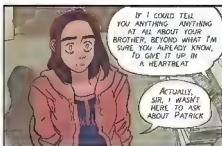
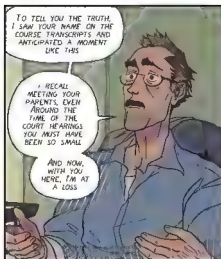


WITH ALL
DUE RESPECT,
SIR



OF COURSE
I'M SORRY

WITH ALL THAT
YOU AND YOUR
FAMILY HAVE GONE
THROUGH
AM, FORGIVE ME





WHAT I WANTED
TO ASK

DO YOU EVER
FEEL A SENSE
OF LOSS?

OR LIKE
YOU HAVE
UNFINISHED
BUSINESS
WITH

SOMEONE?



WHAT?

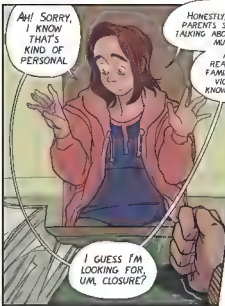


AND IS IT
BECAUSE
OF HIM?

DR SHORTILL?



WHAT?!



AH! SORRY,
I KNOW
THAT'S
KIND OF
PERSONAL

HONESTLY, EVEN MY
PARENTS STILL AVOID
TALKING ABOUT PATRICK
MUCH.

AND I'VE NEVER
REACHED OUT TO THE
FAMILIES OF THE OTHER
VICTIMS I WOULDN'T
KNOW WHERE TO START

I GUESS I'M
LOOKING FOR,
UM, CLOSURE?



YOU SAID IT
YOURSELF
YOU WERE CLOSE,
AND HE BETRAYED
YOUR TRUST



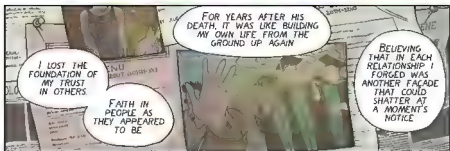
I KNOW IT'S NOT
THE SAME, BUT IF HE'S
ALSO TAKEN SOMETHING
FROM YOU,
I'D FEEL A LITTLE
LESS ALONE



YOU'RE RIGHT
I CAN'T SAY
ANYTHING ROBERT-

ANYTHING DR SHORTILL
TOOK FROM ME COMPARES
TO THE LOSS OF A
FAMILY MEMBER

BUT
IF IT HELPS
TO HEAR



FOR YEARS AFTER HIS
DEATH, IT WAS LIKE BUILDING
MY OWN LIFE FROM THE
GROUND UP AGAIN

I LOST THE
FOUNDATION OF
MY TRUST IN
OTHERS.

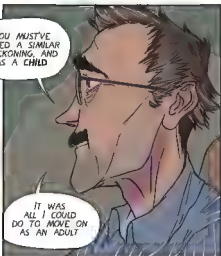
FAITH IN
PEOPLE AS
THEY APPEARED
TO BE

BELIEVING
THAT IN EACH
RELATIONSHIP I
FORGED WAS
ANOTHER FACADE
THAT COULD
SHATTER AT
A MOMENT'S
NOTICE



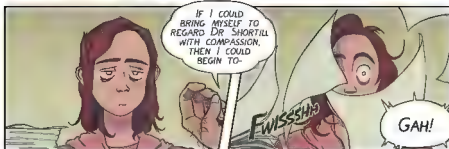
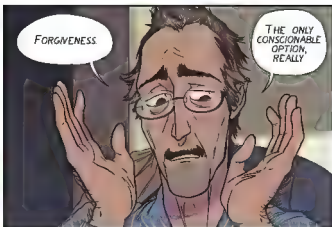
THOSE ARE
SCARS I'LL
CARRY AROUND
TO THIS DAY

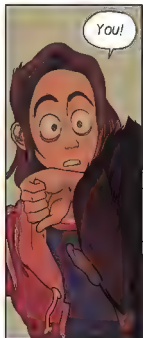
THOUGH, IT STILL
HARDLY SEEMS
FAIR TO BE
TELLING ALL
THIS TO YOU

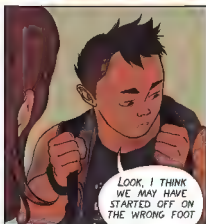
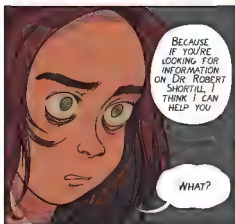
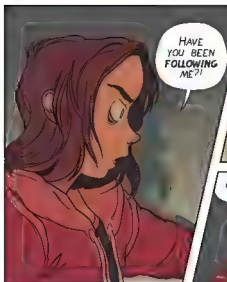


YOU MUST'VE
FACED A SIMILAR
RECKONING, AND
AS A CHILD

IT WAS
ALL I COULD
DO TO MOVE ON
AS AN ADULT









SETH PHAN
JUNIOR
YOUR CLASS-
MATE, AS
YOU KNOW

COGNITIVE
NEUROPSYCH,
BACK ROW



YEAH,
I KNOW
I'M

ALLISON
BEAUFORT
I KNOW

UH, YEAH

I GUESS INTRODUCTIONS
ARE IN ORDER, THEN

WHAT'S THIS
ABOUT SHORTILL?



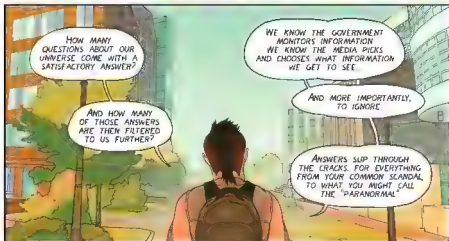
IN DUE
TIME

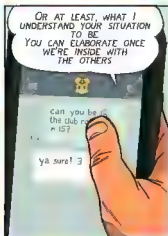
LET'S MOVE THIS
CONVERSATION
SOMEWHERE, A
LITTLE MORE
PRIVATE FIRST

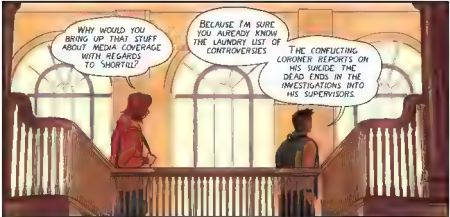


...

THIS
WAY







WHY WOULD YOU
BRING UP THAT STUFF
ABOUT MEDIA COVERAGE
WITH REGARDS
TO SHORTILL?

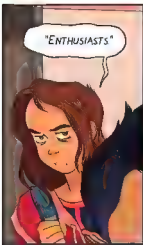
BECAUSE I'M SURE
YOU ALREADY KNOW
THE LAUNDRY LIST OF
CONTROVERSIES

THE CONFLICTING
CORONER REPORTS ON
HIS SUICIDE. THE
DEAD ENDS IN THE
INVESTIGATIONS INTO
HIS SUPERVISORS.



I MEAN IT
GOES ON

ENTHUSIASTS
LIKE MYSELF
HAVE LONG
SUSPECTED THAT
THERE'S EVEN
MORE INFO
BEING KEPT
OUT OF THE
PUBLIC EYE



"ENTHUSIASTS"



MAYBE "AMATEUR SLEUTHS"
IS MORE ACCURATE
MOST OF THIS CASE IS ON THE
PUBLIC RECORD, SO IT'S NOT
THAT HARD

BUT FOR THE
STUFF THAT ISN'T



HEY GUYS



ANYWAY, FOR THE STUFF THAT ISN'T,
YOU JUST HAVE TO KNOW WHERE TO LOOK



IS THIS JUST A
GAME TO YOU?



THIS IS
MY OWN LIFE,
AND MY OWN
BROTHER'S
DEATH.



WHAT MORE IS THERE
TO KNOW? RIBALDI, HIS FRIEND,
COULDN'T GIVE ME ANYTHING
ABOUT HIM. AND WHO CAN
BLAME HIM?

I'VE ALREADY HAD TO
THINK ABOUT HIM TODAY
MORE THAN I'VE WANTED
TO FOR THE PAST
FIFTEEN YEARS

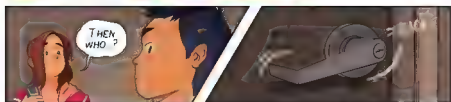
HE GOT AWAY WITH IT
THAT'S IT



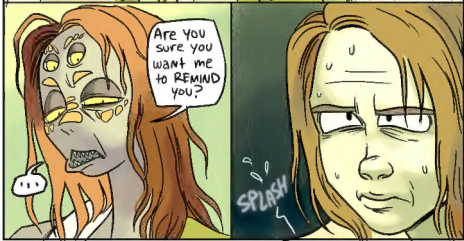
GO AHEAD AND PLAY YOUR LITTLE
DETECTIVE ROLES BY YOURSELVES,
BUT I DON'T WANT ANY PART
OF IT UNDERSTAND?

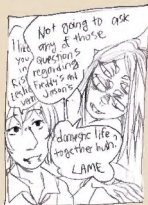
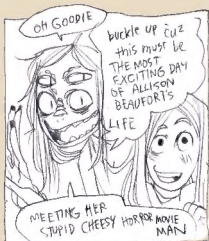
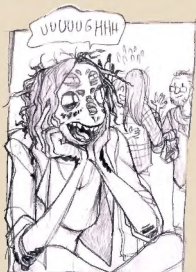


ALLISON
I'M SORRY









NOT LONG ENOUGH IN THE PAST...

HEY LYD!
WHAT'S UP?



WORSE BARELY STUTTERED OUT A JOKE OF A
ROMANTIC STUCK TO MY TONGUE WEIGHED
DOWN WITH WORDS TOO OVER-DRAMATIC
TONIGHT IT'S "I CAN'T GET MUCH WORSE"
VS. "NO ONE SHOULD EVER FEEL LIKE..."